

HEAVENLY METAL

Volume II

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Featuring:



BARREN CROSS

Isn't it great to see a craftsman that commands attention because of his quality product? Barren Cross and Bloodgood, praise God, are this way. They rock so good that people are going to like them. This creates an avenue, open hearts, for the message to travel through.

"There's a certain feeling that goes through your body when they announce, 'Here's Barren Cross,' and you hear people screaming," says BC's bassist, Jim La Verde. "It's like a rush of energy that goes through your body that's incredible. If you put that feeling in with the power of God and knowing that you're doing it for the Lord, the outcome is just limitless.

"Music is a powerful tool. It's always been used as a powerful tool to influence people one way or another. We realize that there's a lot of power in music. The power to change someone's personality, you know--that's an amazing amount of power to have. You can get people to listen to you. You can get a total headbanger and he's gonna come out and listen to what you have to say, because he likes the music."

****What's God telling Barren Cross?**

"God is telling Barren Cross to just go for it and not compromise and just go forward with the full power of the gospel with music as a tool.

"We know exactly where we're going. We know where we're gonna be a few years down the road. It's gonna be the same message, the same gospel, the same Jesus. That's where we're at."

"As long as God's in the fore-front," says drummer Steve Whitaker, "there's nothing that can hold you back. It just looks like God's raisin' the band up to do world-wide ministry. That's our goal: to reach as many kids as we can and tour the world. That's a goal and a vision."

The new album, tentatively titled, **Atomic Arena**, will probably be recorded in May. They'll probably start pre-production as soon as guitarist Ray Parris gets back from his honeymoon. Yes, he joins the ranks of the married metalists. (Vocalist Mike Lee got married early this April.)

There will be ten songs on it. "We have some songs that are kind of long in length," says Steve. "We're trying to see if we can squeeze more than 40 minutes on the LP. If we can't, we'll have to cut out some of the songs or chop 'em down a bit, which would be kind of a bummer. It may be necessary, because of the quality of the vinyl. They might end up putting the extra songs or the full length songs on the cassette and the CD.

There's one benefit to all this: they have all the songs down pat as a band. They're also gonna

record probably two extra songs, which Enigma wants to use at a later date or on a compilation album.

There is also a possibility that Star Song may distribute to the Christian bookstores on this release.

Steve gave us a sneak peek at some of the new songs: "**On The Rainbow** is one. It starts off acoustically. It talks about Satan and the deceiver and starts jammin'.

"We have a song called **Killers Of The Unborn**, which is on abortion.

"There's another one called **Terrorist Child**. One of Ray's previous employers was the actual son of a terrorist in the Middle East somewhere. To say the least, he had some pretty interesting stories to tell, so Ray wrote a song about it. It's pretty heavy lyrically.

"We have a song called **King Of Kings**. It's my second song. I'm really excited about it. It's about Who God is and His magnitude. I felt like something like that was needed to really show the magnitude of Who God is. It's similar to **Give Your Life**.

"**Fight Of The Victor**, which will sound about a 100 times more like Iron Maiden than **Dying Day** did. It's a real powerful song. It's real complex too, like most of Iron Maiden's tunes.

"There's a song called **Cultic Regime**, which is our pseudo speed-metal thrash song. It's a fun song.

"There's no ballads on this one. They're pretty much all heavy metal.

"We figure this record is real important, as far as topping **Rock For The King**, but it could also be a stepping-stone, considering the thing with Enigma. It feels really good and God-centered."

****How 'bout touring?** It looks like you're gonna be busy with the album this summer.

"From what I hear, August is a tentative release date. We're just trusting that that's when God originally wanted it out. We originally intended to be on tour before then, but I don't foresee us going on tour without the record being out there.

"We're dying to go out and play again and we'll probably play a few things here and there, but the tour is kinda being held back until the album is done. "We're not officially signed with any booking agency. There could be a possibility with John Hewey and Tapestry Artists, who manages Keel. There could be anything from a secular tour, opening for somebody, going on our own or touring with Bloodgood and Stryper."

****Do you gig in your area often?**

"Yeah. We don't like to too often. We like to keep on the excitement edge. We did one last month, which sold out one of the bigger clubs in LA.

"Our management has been working solely with the record contract and touring's been kind of secondary."

****How has signing with Enigma been?**

"It's been mostly a waiting game. There hasn't been a whole lot of pressure. There's a couple Christians that work at Enigma. That's neat to see."

****You mentioned a video in the interview with Bob Hopkins at Cornerstone. Has there been any more progress with that?**

"That's pretty much been dissolved. There's nothing being planned right now. I'm sure we're gonna be doing one soon."

****What's your favorite BC song?**

"As for the ones we have out now, **He Loves You**. I get very emotional when I play it in concert. The lyrics touch me a lot. I like the feel of it musically too."

"I feel that we've matured in all areas, musically and spiritually. I can't wait to go into the studio. We've got a couple of commercial-sounding tunes and complex ones that are very Iron Maiden-style. We can't get away from that with Mike. We're utilizing it to the fullest. I keep telling him, 'It's a gift from God. We might as well use it.'"

I asked Steve if the original **Believe** EP was available. He said he has a few, but wants to save 'em for something special down the line.

****How are things happening with Sanctuary?**

"It's really moving. A lot of kids are coming to the classes and getting pastoral care. We meet in a small non-denominational church near Torrance. There's roughly about 120 people now."

****Describe a typical service.**

"Well, it starts off with some up-beat worship with: A drummer; Bob (Beamon—Sanctuary's pastor) on piano; a couple girl singers and a bass player. Then it goes into some mellow worship before announcements and the sermon. It's kind of like a normal service, it's just the people are different. You don't see long-haired rockers and as many young people in a normal church service like that anywhere else."

****Has the Lord shown you any new things that you feel you need to share with the body?**

"The neatest thing, that's happened through all this stuff with Jimmy Swaggert and everything else, is I feel like God's really cleaning house. If you're gonna be in the ministry, especially rock 'n' roll, you've really gotta set your priorities straight and do it whole-heartedly for God. Otherwise, it's just not gonna work. I've seen a lot of bands break apart because of that. I praise God I've seen 'em reform and get the new members that are really in it for the ministry. I've seen so many new bands come out and just solidly be just happenin'. I'm really excited."

"God really is using music for His glory and

His kingdom. Jimmy Swaggert can say all the things he wants to, but the proof is in the fruit. There's no way he can knock that down."

Steve's mom, Beth Whitaker, has just finished a book that promises to make an impact. It's called **Call To A Rock Star: A Christian Mother's Point Of View**. In it she tells what she's seen: from Steve's upbringing to rehearsing at her house and how Steve is now a rock 'n' roll minister. She's been heavily involved with Steve along the way, which has afforded her this very inside look into a metal ministry.

She answers all the questions that parents or Jimmy Swaggert have posed to this type of ministry. Everything from: "Why do they dress like that?" to "Why does it have to be so loud?"—and all from a mother's perspective.

Barren Cross wants to appoint you as promoter-locaters. "If any reader in any state knows any good promoters, get their name, address and phone number to us and we'll get it to our booking agent. That will help us to tour."

Have you wondered what the guys in BC do for a living?

Steve is a police funeral escort. Yes, the drummer for Barren Cross wears a police uniform and rides a police motorcycle. "I put my hair up underneath my helmet."

Ray works with a computer company. Mike recently got a job through Ray's wife-to-be, who works at an employment agency. Jim is basically Associate Pastor at Sanctuary. He picks up part-time jobs here and there.

In conclusion, we will have to wait for their next album, but it will be worth the wait. I have no doubts.

To get BC in touch with promoters, write: Barren Cross, 1701 Centinela Ave, Suite # 124, Inglewood CA 90302.

Metal Tracks

Jesus cries for the lost headbangers in Japan--and He's doing something about it. He is raising up ministries to reach the huge youth culture in Japan. One is called Lamb Fellowship, which reaches out in their country any way they can. Another is a new Christian metal band called **Melchizedek**.

I met one of the members of Melchizedek at Stryper's recent show in Houston, Kiyomi Sugano. Melchizedek hasn't played yet, they've been meeting together for prayer once a month--all twenty to thirty of 'em. Sounds like quite a band huh?

Let's add them to our prayer list and increase our vision for Jesus reaching the metal heathen. Heaven's Metal will keep you aware on their progress.

Metal Tracks continued throughout the mag...



HEAVEN'S METAL GUITAR HERO AWARD OZ FOX

Yes, Oz Fox edged out David Zaffiro for Heaven's Metal's first annual Guitar Hero award. He was awarded a plaque with the above inscription on it when Stryper played San Antonio on April 11th. He played that night like he fully deserved it, too.

He did a solo after his introduction that just blazed and amazed. He's throwing in some totally cool effects into his hammer-ons. Each time he hit the neck, a heavily reverberated note was emitted. It sounded something like, "Wynat, whynott, wynit," as he went up and down the neck. He also displayed his now trademark high-pitched tremelo work, which shows why he won this award.

Stryper confirmed the fact that they're a metal band. I saw 'em on Valentine's Day and was kind

of disappointed. They played all eleven songs off **To Hell With The Devil**, plus **You Won't Be Lonely**, **You Know What To Do**, **Soldiers Under Command**, **Battle Hymn**, **Makes Me Wanna Sing** and **The Rock That Makes Me Roll**. It was generally a mellow concert and void of solos. As you can see, Michael even brought out a hand-held keyboard.

As a result of that show, I didn't have a lot of metallic-expectations for this show. Well, was I blown away! They played with an edge this night that wasn't there before. They cut out **Honestly** and added **Loud 'n Clear** back to their set. Robert and Oz did really hot solos that took the audience over the brink of ecstasy. Before they left the stage, Michael made it a point to very clearly explain salvation.

Heaven's Metal interviewed Oz upon presentation of the plaque. He had this to say, "Well, God has been really humbling me right now about a lot of things. Thanks. Thanks a lot. That's really something: My first award for something like this. I'll have to put that on my wall."

****I hear you're producing Gardian's album.**

"Yeah. I'm working with them on some pre-production right now. We're doing a pre pre-production thing. I'm gettin' to know the guys and we're just kinda working things out. I'm still talkin' to Enigma about what they want to do as far as production goes. We're just kinda, like, prayin' about it and waitin' to see what God wants to do."

****Have you done much production with Stryper?**

"Oh yeah. Definitely. I'm always involved with production with Stryper. I'm looking forward to doing some of that with other bands. I've kinda done demos and stuff with friends before."

****Are you working on the new album at all for Stryper?**

"We're just working on ideas, really, right now. I'm just kinda like kickin' back, you know. Just waitin' and comin' up with ideas here and there. Michael's comin' up with ideas. Everybody's got their ideas and we're just gonna kick 'em around when it comes time for pre-procution and say, 'Oh, we like this tune and we like that tune.'"

"Most of the time Michael does most of the writing, 'cause he comes up with the better tunes. If I got one that is kind of a kicker, we'll go for it, you know. Sometimes my stuff's a little too heavy for Stryper."

****Do you think you'll keep goin' on the melodic lines?**

"Yeah. Definitely. Definitely more melodic. We like melodic stuff. To us, it's better than most music. It feels good to us. That's what we like the most."

****I heard you sing a few verses of **You Know What To Do** in Houston. Are you gonna do anything**

like that on an album?

"I really don't know, to tell you the truth. It depends."

I was confused when I saw the **Free video, 'cause if showed Mike doin' the lead and I thought you did it.

"No, Mike did it. He did a good job on that. That's the only song (on THWTD) he does the solo by himself. The rest of 'em are harmonies, the switch-off things or I do 'em."

**There's a lot of Christians that idolize you and stuff. What would you have to say to 'em?

"Well, all I have to say is, 'I'm just a man, like everybody else. I make mistakes and I blow it from time to time and I'm not anybody to look up to. The person Who created me is the One to look up to and that's Jesus. That's the important thing to remember and that's Who I come to claim and proclaim: Jesus Christ.'

"Hopefully they'll hear that and understand not to look to men. Not to look to any man, 'cause men'll let you down. Jesus will never let you down."

Anything else you'd like to say in the little microphone?

"Hi Mom!"



Was it inevitable? I never thought I'd see it, but here's Mike with a hand-held synth! (What'll the guys in Deliverance think?)

Oz and his wife are having a baby in September. "I can't wait for that. I'm just thanking the Lord for all He's doin' for me. He's doin' a lot through Stryper. I just wanna continue to do His will, whatever it may be, whether it's here in Stryper, preachin' in a church or whatever. Whatever He wants to do, you know? I hope He keeps Stryper together for a little while. I'm having fun."

Metal Tracks cont'd...

IN 3-D are fine-tuning and mixing their follow-up album to **No Glasses Needed**. This release will be more of the new music, rock and R&B style than the first album, which was like a cross between Black Sabbath and The Police.

It's due out anytime now and is entitled **Barrage**. It was recorded at Tone Zone and Opus Studios in Chicago. It will feature Randy Kirkman on rhythm/ lead guitar, who replaced Jon de Fincher.

A couple real cool custom demos are going to be available soon for mail order. **Blaring Out** and **Thunder Calling** will be two of the first.

Deliverance

BEHOLD, NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

Deliverance stands for "Christ delivering us from sin. That's what we wanna bring," says vocalist and rhythm guitarist Jimmy Brown. "Christ said He came to bring deliverance to the captives. God delivered me from a background of drugs and the occult." These guys want to pass the deliverance they've experienced to a world in bondage to sin--especially the world of metal.

These guys also bring deliverance, as it were, to the Christian headbangers among us who are wandering in a desert void of real thrashing metal.

"The metal we play is very crunchy," says Brian, the bassist of the group.

"It's very crunchy and very thrash," says Jimmy, "but it also has some talent to it."

"It's a funny combination," says Brian, "because it's melodic thrash."

**Is it kind of like starting out with a prelude of acoustic guitar and going into thrash or something?

"No," says Brian. "It's more like the instruments are really, really heavy and the vocals are relatively melodic. We've got harmonies and stuff, where you don't find that in a lot of thrash bands. It's like Stryper and Metallica. Our music's Metallic-ish, but our vocals are melodic."

**Why don't you share your testimonies?

"Like Jimmy," says Brian, "I was heavily involved in drugs and only moderately involved in the occult--but even a little bit is too much. I came to California and I was staying with my Aunt and Uncle, who are Christians. I used to think they were crazy. During the period of time I was staying with them, I had a few close calls with death--through drugs and alcohol abuse.

"Each one of those times I cried out to God. Finally I realized...well, finally He got to me. It's funny, because my mother told me to read my Bible every night. So I'd go out and get drunk, watch the room spin and read my Bible. One night I read Matthew 24, about the good and faithful servant parable.

"I knew about the rapture and everything and when it said about the good and faithful servant taking advantage of the situation--saying, 'Well, my master isn't coming back for a while' and he gets drunk and beats up the other servants and stuff--It really hit home. Shortly thereafter I gave my life to the Lord.

"Before I finally made that final commitment, a Christian friend quoted that scripture: 'Many will be saying 'Lord, Lord,'

and He'll be turning away some of those saying, 'Depart from Me. I never knew you.' That woke me up. That was about 2 years ago and I've been walking with God ever since."

**How 'bout you Jimmy?

"I got saved when I was about 10. I was moderately raised in spiritualism and the occult. Then, when I was about 10, somebody was witnessing to my brother and he got saved. Then my whole family got saved.

"About two years later, I fell back into witchcraft. I was young and didn't know what I was committing myself to. I was playing the guitar and really liked that and the world looked really good to me--especially at that time. The heavy metal groups were really coming on strong. I started playing with bands and eventually started backsliding really hardcore. I got involved with the occult, sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

"My life went on through that. Everything became a drag though, and the occult was getting really scary to me. I was asked to be a high priest, because I was very open to demon spirits. I rejected the call. When I did, this woman I was seeing, this spiritualist, said, 'From this day forward you're life's gonna be cursed.'

"It just really hit me. I just went out and got drunk. When I got home, I went into my bedroom and all I heard was my mother praying for me. It just really hit me, so I got on my knees and said, 'Lord cleanse me.'

"I pretty much kept it a secret at the time. I was in a band and we were getting ready to record. In fact, I did record an album with 'em. I just left it. About four or five months later I went up to a snow camp retreat with my church and I got the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I renewed my life back into the Lord again and just gave my life all over to Christ. I went through about two years learning the Word and just getting into the Word and getting into prayer and everything before I even thought about joining a Christian band or anything. 'Cause I could feel the Lord was preparing me.

"It's funny, I talk to other other brothers and it seems to be the same thing: God really wants to prepare our hearts before He puts us in a ministry.

"That was two years ago. Praise the Lord. We pray that the Lord would just have His way in our ministry.

"We don't wanna be just another band that emerges and breaks up. We just wanna be a solid ministry. I believe that when Christ raises up a ministry, He wants it to last."

**What do you think about the struggles a band goes through trying to get picked up by a

secular label?

"I think that's a dream for all of us that are involved with the Christian bands: to be signed by a label," says Jimmy. "Especially a secular label, 'cause you can get in the record stores. You don't have to work anymore. It's like your ministry's your work and your band is your work."

"I'm sure it's a dream for all of us. I think what we have is just a desire to reach people. I'm not saying that those temptations won't face us. I'm sure that if that opportunity comes, we're gonna jump at it. I think you've gotta use a lot of prayer and wisdom too."

"I really admire ministries like The Darrell Mansfield Band and Rez Band," says Brian, "and they're not on major secular labels. So, it's no big deal."

"We're more interested in ministry than industry," says Jimmy.

"I pray that that would continue," says Brian. "No compromise."

"Amen," agrees Jimmy. "We have to continuously submit to that."

****Do you face a lot of opposition or mild persecution from the world?**

"I guess we do," says Jimmy reluctantly. "I get a lot of comments, like after our show. A lot of people come up to us and say, 'Praise God. You guys really go out and full-on preach.' Then there's the share of people that come out and say, 'You talk too much. You shouldn't do that. It turns away the secular people. You should play more music.'"

"I'm one to believe that the Word is gonna reach people, not the music. The music is just to draw them, but the Word has to go out there. They're hearing it, whether they can face it or they're laughing at it. The Word's not gonna return void, the scripture says."

"At the Whiskey," relates Brian, "there's a guy standing through the whole show with both hands up with the old snail sign. When I talked, I looked straight at him. He looked back and smiled as I was talking to him. That kind of stuff is always there. I know what I stand for." (Brian also knows Who he stands for!)

"We're gonna face a lot of opposition out there," says Jimmy, "but I think a lot of people like us for our music even though our message stands strong. A lot of people tell me, 'You guys are so different.' Almost every Christian band out here is typical. They're all like Stryper copies. They try to have something like that."

"We just go out there in jeans and shirts and just play. We don't go out and spend \$50 for an outfit. We just go out there in what we

wear to work or what we wear around the house. We don't wear any makeup or anything. We just go out there plain-faced. Our music is very hardcore as well, so that attracts too. We haven't faced a lot of hardcore opposition, as far as, 'You guys reek because you talk too much.' We have faced a little of that, though."

"Like the last time we played the Waters," adds Brian, "and the sound man kept telling you to shut up."

"Yeah. We played the Waters Club here in San Pedro," tells Jimmy. "The Lord kept telling me, 'Talk, talk.' So I just started lettin' it all out. I was talking two or three minutes before the sound man came over the p.a. and started telling me to shut up."

****Over the p.a.?**

"Yeah. He was saying, 'Jimmy. Please be quiet. Can you shut up?' I just said, 'Hey look it. The Lord wants me to talk and I'm going to talk. They let me talk for another five or six minutes. Finally our time was up, so we had to play our last song and get out of there. At least the Word went out and people were touched that night."

"We had two brothers saved out in the parking lot. They came out to find out what kind of equipment I used for my guitar and we ended up tellin' 'em about the Lord. God really blessed that night."

****Praise God for those guitars.**

"Amen."

The band really has a heart for evangelism. They are fired up about playing with secular bands.

"We wanna reach the lost," says Jimmy, "but the lost is with the secular people--that's where we wanna attack."

"It's cool playin' with Christians sometimes too," says Brian. "You can edify them. It's always neat to be around brothers and sisters. We always need fellowship, but the main thing is to go play with the secular people."

"We have a slogan now for the band. It's: **'We come to you not with enticing words, but we preach Christ and Him crucified.'** We're just taking the words of Paul and using that as our slogan. We don't want to compromise in any way, but preach the Lord."

****What do you think of Metallica and thrash metal in general?**

"I'm not for Metallica and their messages, but I very much like their music. I think they're very talented musicians. I've spoken with James Hetfield, the singer for Metallica. He has his head straight about some things and on other things he doesn't. Their lyrics, if you study them, are not as bad as everybody makes them seem. Obviously they're not for

First Strike

First Strike is back; and they have a tape of killer tunes to show it. This band thrilled the headbangers in the kingdom when they released their debut album, **Rock of Offense**. They were a pleasant addition to the Christian music scene at the time. (It was 1984 and shortly after Stryper's arrival to the scene.) They quickly sold 20,000 copies and then faded out of the scene. This was due to losing their singer just before the album's release, which led to practically no tour support.

Now, with a new permanent lead singer--David Campanaro, First Strike is ready to get the musical message out there again. David joins founding members Pat Boylan (guitars), Tim Larkin (guitars), Chris Salmon (bass) and John Delaney (drums) to complete the group. They've finished a new mini-EP, which they are currently shopping to some interested record labels.

This tape, called **Crank It Up**, is hot! I think it is head and shoulders above their first effort. It's a more controlled sound. It's real melodic, but it has very precise and potent punches that are timely and powerful. The production is radio-quality. It sounds like it was done in a 24-track studio.

Some Kind of Lover starts off the tape with some great hooks. It grabs you instantly and doesn't let go. David Campanaro does a great job on lead vocals, while Tim and Pat add some real good backup.

Don't Let Me Walk Away doesn't let up in the quality at all. Every instrument does its job here in driving the song. The guitars do some flowing leads here that just scream for radio airplay.

Power is the first song here just totally devoted to headbangers. David's vocals sound like the old Sammy Hagar on this one. He sings with a kind of controlled wail. The message here is as declaring and up-front as the driving rhythm and hot riffs are: "I got the power, got to let it show. I got the power, want you all to know." I remember the four original members of First Strike playing this back in June of '85 at the Exodus festival in Victoria, Texas. It was one of the hottest songs of their set then and it still sounds great.

Comeback is another pop/metal song that's done very well. It's somewhat musically similar to .38 Special's better material. This style of music should definitely get First Strike heavy airplay. As Paul Q-Pek would say, "They just plain know how to write a good pop song."

Overall, this cassette EP is a great welcome from these hard rockers from Sacramento. I think this stuff showcases an improved songwriting and

performing team. Hopefully some record companies will get the idea and get these boys signed again.

One Bad Pig's "Kosher" had this to say after one listening: "Night Ranger...Bon Jovi...38 Special...REO Speedwagon...and a host of others...HANG IT UP! You guys ain't got nothing on First Strike. Forget the Christian market. This hard rock outfit has the voice, the hook-laden songs, the musicianship, and the flawless production to make this niche of the secular market their very own. All of this with a stronger message than their first record. What can I say? This is the best recommendation this Godcore screamer will ever give a pop-metal record. Believe it."

For those of you who want to hear this good music, well, I've got good news for ya! First Strike is selling it through the mail, along with other merchandise.

This mini EP is \$5. **The Rock of Offense** album or tape is \$7. T-shirts are \$11. Visors and hats are \$6 each. Buttons and bumper stickers are \$1 each. A band photo is \$2.50.

First Strike is also thinking of their supporter's finances and offer special package deals as fan club kits.

Kit #1 is \$5 and includes the quarterly newsletter from the band (with info about the members, concerts, new songs, etc.) and a bumper sticker.

Kit #2 is \$10 and includes: the newsletter; bumper sticker; 8x10 photo signed by the guys; and your choice of **Rock of Offense** (album or tape) or the new cassette EP.

Kit #3 is \$20 and includes: the newsletter; sticker; 8x10 signed photo; t-shirt; and your choice of album or EP.

Please send check or money order (only) to: First Strike Productions, 4617 McDonald Dr. Sacramento CA 95825.

First Strike asks for your prayer support: "that they might continue to touch people's lives with the words and songs God gives them!"

Metal Tracks cont'd...

Zion is going into the studio to 24-track record all new material.

Daniel Baillod, producer of "Adonai Metal Rock" radio show, translated the Stryper interview on their maxi-single **Reach Out** into French and played it over the air in France! Praise God.

Elisabeth Bieber, who wrote the Thin Lizzy article last issue, also works with a radio station in France. She has a message for "All crazy Jesus headbangers: If you have import rarities, which you'd like us to listen to, send us a tape (chrome Maxell or TDK tapes). Rock Express Management, c/o Elisabeth Bieber, 146 route du Polygone, F-67100, Strasbourg, France.



Jacob's Well l-r: David Owens (drums); David Joslin (who played acoustic guitar on the album); John Owens (bass); Glen Cannon (guitars and vocals). Photo by Arthur Marsh.

Jacob's Well

By Arthur Marsh

Jacob's Well, a trio from Adelaide's northern suburbs, formed in mid-1985, blending the influences of Rush, Yes and Richie Blackmore with a straight-forward gospel message. They have an album-length cassette, **Fight For Paradise**, which had just become available at the time I interviewed them.

In the words of vocalist and guitarist, Glen Cannon, "Our sound is bordering on heavy metal. You couldn't call it rock or heavy rock because it's a little bit faster and more intense than, say, Deep Purple or Led Zeppelin. I'd call it 60/40." At this point everyone packs up laughing.

Bass player John Owens continues: "The vocals are very distinct, dominating sometimes, but the guitar is very up-front. The bass and drums are not highly technical, but we do a lot of work together. Like, if David (John's brother and drummer) does a roll, I will follow it up with a certain run and so on. So, the bass and drums are holding the tightness there, while the guitar's over the back of it--strong lead guitar." More laughter breaks out as the influence of Abba is discussed and slowly, conversation returns to the subject of Jacob's Well.

"We do take it seriously, believe me. We're not just mucking around here. We've got a serious commitment to this band, and to the Lord, without compromise. The Lord comes first, and we like to have a sense of humour as well." No shortage of that here!

Jacob's Well's first encounter with studio recording came with **The Lightworks Project**, a compilation album of Adelaide Christian artists. Their track, **It's Time To Turn**, gave them a familiarity with Foundation Studios and a clear idea on how to produce their own album, **Fight For Paradise**, also recorded at Foundation.

"We wanted it to be meatier, more along the lines of our live style, with more time to record," said Glen. Well, most of the songs were recorded in two takes, with a total time in the studio of about 30-40 hours over the course of a week--which, in my opinion, is not much time at all.

Response to **Fight For Paradise** has been favourable, with heavy metal record store, Verandah selling it along with the Christian bookstores in Adelaide.

"We want our music to be in secular record shops. We don't want it to be stuck in the Christian section and be put away in the cupboard; we want it to be out and spread around in all the shops.

"We really want our tape to outreach to non-Christians, that's basically it." Amen!

This tape, besides being exciting simply because it's from Australia, rings with promise. Jacob's Well is very talented and this tape shows it. They have a melodic, blues-based sound that is definitely catchy.

Does anyone remember Vandenberg's debut album? It was the last album I flipped-out over before I got right with God. This tape doesn't have the full punch that Vandenberg did on that one, but if they had the same budget that Vandenberg did, it'd be a knockout.

Guitarist Glen Cannon makes an impressive showing here. His leads are melodic, similar to Adrian Vandenberg or Mathias Jabs. Glen's not flashy, just very fluid.

Glen also handles the vocals, which also bear resemblance to Vandenberg. There's a noticeable AC-DC influence in his sometimes plodding and bluesy voice as well. Glen does a good job at both positions, which is no easy chore.

Loving Heart showcases some of the great riffs Glen is capable of. They're built around a really good blues rhythm. Jacob's Well is doing what has made bands like Led-Zeppelin and Whitesnake famous: using bluesy chords and leads with lots of volume.

Prayer For Salvation features some killer riffs that are pulled off by hitting harmonics and

Jacob's Well cont'd on page 22



* **The Cutting Edge** is a great monthly newsletter covering all types of Christian music. 12 issue sub is \$9. Send to: Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **Kosher Records** can get a record for you when no one else can! Larry's got copies of **100% Proof**, the British metal band that is no more! They were on Myrrh Records over there! Isn't that wild? 900 N. "L" Street, Lompoc CA 93436.

* Back issues of Heaven's Metal are \$1 each. Please allow 2-8 weeks delivery.

* Heaven's Metal sells Pure Metal Records through the mail! All proceeds go into the production of the mag. \$8.98 plus \$1 postage. (It's pronounced "poz-tedge," Kevin.)

* **Rizzen Roxx** is downright edifying! 6 issues = \$6. Send to: Judd Harper, 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **Risen Rock**. A rad rag made in Canada by real hosers! \$3 gets you 6 issues. Write: PO Box 1564, Point Roberts WA 98281-1564.

* **North Star Production Co.** can help your Christian metal band. Call Bob @ (815) 485-3818.

* **White Throne** is an underground mag covering Christian metal. Lots of interviews, reviews and info on unsigned bands with demos. \$2 per issue. Make checks payable to: David Johnson. Send to: White Throne, PO Box 20577, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **Alliance** demo is one of the highest quality demo tapes available. Recorded on 24-track and yours for \$6.75 Write: 8 Lake Dr. Round Rock TX 78664.

* Message to all subscribers of **Headbanging Jesus Style** from Cliffie P: "I humbly apologize for the long delay in you're receiving the issues. I've had some problems, which are solved now (A new typewriter) Don't worry, it's coming. Thanks for your patience...Anybody have **Dream Life** or **Us Kids** by The Lifesavors on cassette?" Contact Cliff @ 610 Sussex Ave, Seaford DE 19973, or call (302) 629-6650.

* **Radio Airplay!** The Rock Foundation serves Western North Carolina and East Tennessee on Saturday nights. Submit your recordings to 'em at The Rock Foundation, PO Box 4271, Hickory NC 28603.

* **Lead Guitarist** would like to join established Christian band. Free to travel. (713) 690-6636 or (713) 893-8922. Ask for Dalton.

* **Tracts...** For a free sample of tracts, write Faith, Prayer and Tract League, 2627 Elmridge NW, Grand Rapids MI 49504.

* **French Airplay!** Are you in a Christian metal band that wants to feed the starving French metal scene? Send your demos to Radio Espoir and you'll receive regular airplay on the "Adonai Metal Rock" show every Saturday night in France. Send all correspondence via Air Mail to "Adonai Metal Rock," Daniel Baillo, Fregimont, 47360, Prayssas, France.

WSAJ at Grove City College in Grove City PA has a two hour Christian metal show on Saturday nights called "The Heaven's Metal Show." Scott Ebert is the dj and will play your music if you send it to him at 209 Elfort Dr, Pittsburgh PA 15235.

* **Zoe** - A monthly publication free of charge to those who ask. Each issue centers on a theme. Good for Bible studies and group discussions of any kind. Zoe, PO Box 2313, Lincoln NE 68502.

* Band of Christians wanting their music and message heard, send it (your demo) to: "The Word Be Heard." c/o A.D.A. 1402 E. College Ave, #211-D, Normal IL 61761.

* **Rock & roll detention home ministry** (with heavy metal tendencies). Original music. Drummer and keyboardist needed. Write Free Heart Ministries, PO Box 181196, Austin TX 78718. (512) 339-1683

* **Prinzinger** - Heavy metal lyricist is looking for bands interested in creative lyrics. 25+ songs and always writing more! Write: c/o Scott S. Prinzing, PO Box 1905, Saint Paul MN 55112, or call (612) 483-3164. I Timothy 4:5.

Guitar Hero Award results: 1st Oz Fox; 2nd David Zaffiro; 3rd Ray Parris; 4th Stu Heiss and Phil Keaggy (tie); 5th Dana Key; 6th Dann Huff, Michael Sweet, Kerry Livgren and Michael Tyrrell (tie); 7th The combination of Michael and Oz; 8th John Mahan; 9th Eric Turner and Randy Thomas 10(tie).

Contagious

I was surprised to see a fully-produced shrink-wrapped cassette in the mail from Contagious.

This album is good. The cover art shows the members walking the streets reading the Word. On the back their shoes and the Bible are all that's left of 'em, because of the rapture.

Water Then Fire starts off the tape with a real punch. The drums thunder and the guitars collide with distortion, creating a metal lunch.

The message is about the coming judgement of God with fire, which is similar to the judgement with water that God saved Noah from.

Jesus Is The Way rocks hard with some solid drumming to back it up. The chords used in the rhythm are very basic, but they're accented by some very good leads.

The hooks in **He's The Light** are very pop-influenced, but delivered through distortion to sound metal. The leads have a very wicked bite to 'em.

One Way One Truth is a real cool ballad with a great message.

Nowhere To Run fits perfect into the song order of the album. It starts screaming right after the soothing ballad **One Way One Truth**. The vocals sound just like Lance Keltner, of Follower.

The leads here scream louder than all the rest on this album.

Lost and Lonely has a very nice melodic intro. The music fits the message very well. A lonely and hurt person can probably relate to melodic metal more than thrash at their moment of grief. The chorus comforts the listener with, "The Son is watching. He cares about you."

The album overall has a good sound because Randy Thomas, of Allies and Sweet Comfort, produced it. It was recorded in the band's church. Randy came down with his portable studio in a van and ran the wires into the church. It came out great!

You might be able to find it in your local Christian record store, because it is getting distribution. If you can't, and, might I say, you must, you can order it by sending \$7 to Contagious c/o Mark Lewis, 5960 Olive St. Long Beach CA 90805.

Toran Spring

A slow metal sound with a raspy, angry female voice. That's Toran Spring. She could very well be the beginning of the Christian version of Lita Ford. She can jam. That is evident by this one-person recording. That's right, Toran does all the instrumentation here. It's easy to imagine her singing and playing guitar at the same time, because the vocals and guitar rhythms match other rather than run in opposites.

Toran makes this tape available free to anyone asking. She has a response card inside asking for comments. She asks that we respond only after listening to the tape at least three times. I can see why. The first two times I heard it, I was too turned off by the garage-style production. Now, a month later, I listen to it and really enjoy it. The hooks and leads are creative and worth listening to.

There's some cool lyrics on the bizarre side: "I love the psychos, 'cause they are free. They aren't phoney, like you and me."

To describe Toran's voice is a chore: Try taking Janis Joplin's voice to a metal range and mixing it with Chrissie Hynds of The Pretenders. This talented musician will probably get some attention, but hopefully it won't be the same kind of attention Lita Ford gets from her predominantly male fans.

To order it, write: Toran Spring, PO Box 573, Sprinvale ME 04083.

Metal Tracks cont'd...

Darrell Mansfield and his band are, "in a bit of a quandary as far as what direction to go," says former bassist Jeff Nicholson. "I left the band New Year's. I just talked to Eric Turner, the guitar player, and he told me what's happening. Frontline wants Darrell to do a follow-up to **Revelation**. That album was basically Eric and I pushin' Darrell, saying, 'If you're gonna play for young people, you better get a little bit more metallic.' Any metal that you hear on there came from us. Darrell liked it and went along with it, but that isn't really his thing. Darrell really wants to kinda go back into the whole blues realm. Right now, as they stand, the band is more blues-oriented. Frontline wants a borderline metal album and Darrell doesn't wanna do it. Darrell wants a blues album and Frontline doesn't want a blues album, so they don't know what to do yet.

"So that's all I know. There's no plans to record as of yet. They haven't been writing any new material." That's the scoop from Jeff Nicholson, who we should be hearing a lot more from in the future.

Saint's Time's End is #19 on College Music Journal charts, the only real national metal charts in America!

Just when you thought reading was safe - THE ACTIVIST.
each issue includes features, artist profiles (secular/Christian), record reviews, and comix that fall under the theme of "radical truth through art, music, and social commentary." For a sample of this contemporary Christian paper, send \$1 to:

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Preachin'

Whenever Barren Cross gets on the cover, there's some preachin' goin' on inside. (See Vol. I #4). The Lord showed me the following piece of truth three years ago and I didn't print it or share it a lot, because I thought everyone already knew it. Still, I've yet to see it presented. So, when the rock controversy got stirred up again, I decided to share it.

Paul talks about meat sacrificed to idols in 1 Corinthians chapter 8 and Romans chapter 14. Stop and read both texts. It basically says that meat is meat, regardless if it has been sacrificed to idols or not. It does say that, if you do eat the meat with the conviction that it is wrong, then you are defiling yourself.

We need to look at how this issue affected the people during that time to give it a more direct application to us as rockers in the kingdom. The people that were against eating meat, which was sacrificed to idols, were dead set against it. After all, they knew it was demonic to be involved in sacrifices to idols. Do you see the correlation? Today's opponents of rock see all rock as of the devil with no means of good whatsoever. "A Christian shouldn't defile himself with music that has been offered to idols!" The resistance to meat in those times was probably just as intense, if not more, than the resistance to rock music we see today.

We know that, no food is unclean in itself (Romans 14:14) and therefore assume that no music is unclean in itself also. We know this, but that's not the point Paul made when he addressed the issue. In fact, Paul says that, "Knowledge makes arrogant," and "if anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know."

The whole point Paul is making is, "Of course Christian rock music is not unclean in itself. You have the complete freedom in Christ to partake of it. But don't you dare use that freedom to cause your brother, who thinks it's wrong, to stumble."

He says, "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgement on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand." (Romans 14:1-4)

The punchline and warning for us is in verse 15: "If your brother is distressed because of what you eat (listen to) you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating (listening)

destroy your brother for whom Christ died." (1 Cor 8:12 goes on to say that this is a sin.)

Verse 14 tells us not to let anyone, though, take this freedom from us: "Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil."

The Holy Spirit sure set this argument up well! The text goes on to say, "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking (or listening), but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men."

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble." (Romans 14:19-20)

We are to realize the freedom God's given us and fully enjoy it. We are to not let anyone steal that freedom from us. But, when our freedom may cause a brother to stumble, we are to freely lay that freedom down.

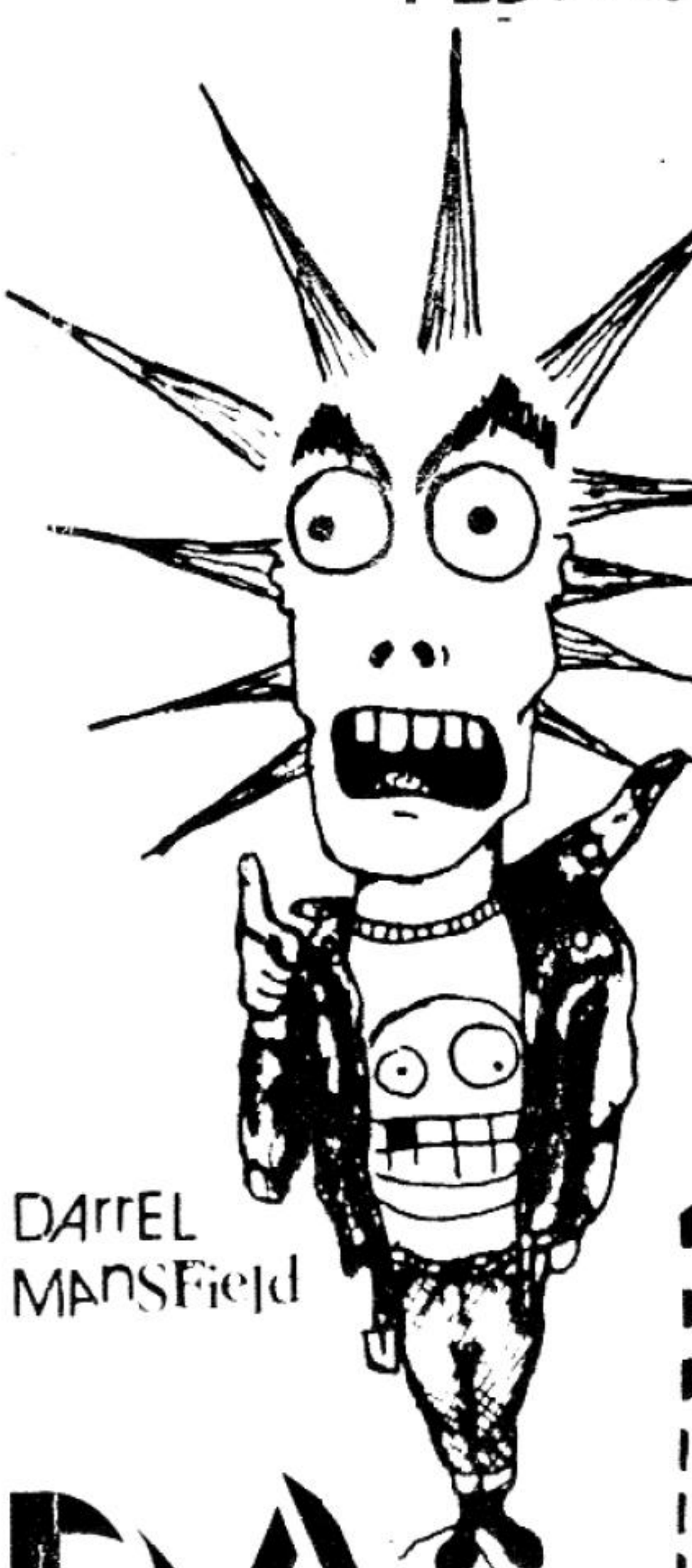
That is true freedom and totally Christ-like! Jesus's life was not taken away from Him, He freely gave it away. Why? because He loves us. Why should we lay down our freedom for our brother? Because we love him.

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Deliverance cont'd

God, I just think their music's cool."

"But," says Brian, "if they're not for God, they're against Him."

**Tell me about some strange incidents that happened at a show.

"How 'bout the last time we played at The Oasis?" asks Brian.

"Oh dude!" exclaims Jimmy, "Go ahead."

"Before we even went on, some dude came in wearing a karate suit. They say he started staring around, looking for something and then he started looking at one guy and screaming, 'I want my...' whatever he wanted, and started turning over tables. Seven guys jumped him and held him down and prayed over him and carried him out.

"Later on, that same night, there was a knife fight outside. Then the girl, who was standing up front with red paint all over her face, went out and pulled a gun on someone. It was a pretty interesting evening."

"It didn't help that I invited every demon in hell to come against us that night as well," laughs Jimmy.

"We had some rad prayer before and after that guy in karate suit came out," continues Brian. "There was a lot of chaos and Jimmy said that and, well, that's what happened."

"I guess Satan really rolled against us that night, but that was cool because people were still touched that night regardless of how Satan attacked. God really pulled it off."

**Do you guys have a demo that you'd like to sell through the mail?

"We made copies of the album that we haven't finished and we lost all the copies of it. So, we'd have to go back into the studio to mix another copy to put on a cassette. We do have, like, rehearsal cassettes. The sound came out good for a rehearsal. You can't really expect much, but I think it's reasonable enough to send 'em a copy."

**How can we pray for you?

"We really appreciate people's prayers," says Brian. "That's where it all starts. Definitely pray for boldness, for going out and preaching."

"Also wisdom for situations that come," adds Jimmy. "If we ever face a secular record contract or anything--we want to be able to use godly wisdom to make the correct decision."

"Just pray for the anointing on our band. That's one thing we really want: for the anointing to rest on everything we do and everything we say."

**What would you say to the body of Christ concerning the recent "scandal," as it were, of Jim Bakker?

"I'd say, 'He among you who is without sin cast the first stone,'" says Jimmy.

"I'm sure Jim Bakker has that situation under the blood of Christ now. So who are we to bring up that situation? Who are we to make a judgement? I believe Christ has forgiven him. I believe Jesus would show love to him and He wouldn't condemn him. The way the media's been pushin' it and making it sound really hideous is just horrible. I think the media has no right to do that. They're gonna do whatever they want, regardless of what anybody says, but I think the body of Christ should offer him their love and their support and their prayers to Jim Bakker. Him and his wife really need that love and commitment right now. They're wounded soldiers, why kill 'em? We need to bind up their wounds and strengthen them...maybe drop them a letter. That's what I did. I dropped 'em a letter, saying, 'I support you and my prayers are behind you.' It's important to pray. There's so much division in the body of Christ right now. I think it was purposely a plot of Satan to do this with the media, especially with what's going on with Oral buddy and Jimmy Swaggert with the big rock and roll issue. Everything's been taken and really blown out of proportion. It's making all the Christians look like a bunch of idiots."

"All I can say," adds Brian, "is, 'Put your trust in God and not in man.' Pray for every situation that comes up. I think Satan's trying to make us Christians look like a bunch of idiots. Let him try it. Jesus said, 'Upon this rock I shall build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail.' God is gonna have His way. God'll always take a situation and turn it around. I think we should just pray for Jim and Tammy. If they're not right with God, well, pray that they'll get right, but let's not talk about it."

And another warrior emerges from the pit of Los Angeles to wipe out the enemy...

Metal Tracks cont'd...

Heaven's Metal, along with other Christian publications, is still being censored by the Texas Department of Corrections. Bryan Sorens, one of our brothers behind bars, has each issue put through a six-week screening process before he gets it. If you'd care to cry out against this injustice, write Governor Bill Clements, Capitol Building, Austin TX 78701.

Plan your vacations accordingly! Southern California is hosting the first annual HIS Festival. It's an all metal event with Barren Cross, Messiah Prophet, Holy Right, Gardian, Eternal Ryte, Neon Cross, Zelus, Inner Lite and Contagious. It's June 27th. For more info, call (714) 351-9594.



Gardian is pictured l-r: Rikk Hart -drums; Tony Palacios -lead guitar, keyboards and backup vocals; Paul Cawley -lead vocals, guitar and founder of the group; David Bach -bass, synthesizer, backup vocals and founder; Rikk Hart -drums; and Tony Palacios -lead guitar, keyboards and backup vocals.



Gardian is one of the top three local Christian metal draws on the West Coast. (The other two being Barren Cross and Holy Soldier.) They are an established band and will be the second Christian band to release an album on Enigma Records.

This interview finds the band in a state of productive waiting. They're patiently waiting for a record to be released sometime after September. Meanwhile, the creative juices are flowing and new songs are being formed. They're beginning pre-production on this album, which will be produced by--are you ready?: Oz Fox!

"We're really blessed to have Oz producing us," says co-founder and bassist David Bach. "He's real up on the band. We really hit it off well with him. He came down and then brought his guitar in and we jammed. He'll produce the record when the Stryper tour breaks."

**Are any recordings of your current stuff available?

"Well, we feel that the tapes we have available now do not do justice to the band, 'cause we're just growing so much as a band. We've got so much new material, but if people write in and really want to hear what we sound like, we'd be happy to oblige."

These tunes, that Gardian has put down on tape, are very good. They show a talented, professional and confident band in the studio. Considering their constant gigging and their growing studio experience, these guys will be smokin' when the album breaks!

**Here's the numero-uno classic Christian rock band question: Does your name, Gardian, have any spiritual significance?

"Yes it does," answers David. "We see any Christian band being guardians. Guardians of the truth: God's Word. Especially in a world of secular metal. It's not particularly derived from any certain scripture or anything. We do take our imagery from Ephesians 6:10-17--putting on the full armor of God."

"The armor we wear is theatrical armor, but it's symbolic of the real spiritual armor we wear. When we speak of our warfare image, it's symbolic of the real spiritual warfare that's goin' on right now in this world."

This warfare is really happenin'. They are making serious inroads into the devil's kingdom by playing at least once every two weeks, usually in the secular rock clubs of Hollywood. They have a show at The Palace coming up where they're the only Christian band out of six. It's the "L.A. Rock Wars," which features some of the biggest bands in L.A. God's chosen a good band to represent Himself there.

"We're a very theatrical band. We love all the smoke, flashpots and all that stuff whenever possible. We try to present a really high-energy show and everything well choreographed. We want to give it our all and make it an extravaganza. Tony does a showcase guitar solo and stuff. Our drummer's got a really big drum riser."

"Besides sharing the gospel with 'em, which is the most important thing, we like to make people feel, 'Wow! That was really an extravaganza.' If people are gonna pay and come see us, we want just to be something awesome."

"We like to make it clear right from the start, especially when we're playing with secular bands, that we are a Christian band and what we're all about. About 3/4 of the way through, Paul basically gives a short message."

"Sometimes, when we play with secular bands, Paul will be laying down the gospel and the place will get silent. That's gonna happen. It doesn't faze us. That's what it's all about. We haven't had too many things thrown at us or anything like that."

"The Christian shows are like celebrations for us. Most of the people there are Christians and we really get a good crowd response. We love that, but we really wanna be a band that can get any crowd going."

"A lot of people will come up to us afterwards and say, 'I thought you guys were really good musically. I'm not a Christian, but I thought you guys were really cool.' That, to us, is a witness that we're right there. We're trying to open doors in people's hearts. Actually, God opens doors, but planting a seed sometimes is accomplishing something."

"We try to be friendly guys. A lot of people think, 'Oh, they're a Christian band.' They expect us to be hateful or something, like fire and brimstone. We just try and love 'em and break down the walls."

"When we get a good crowd response, that's just like icing on the cake. We don't mind playing in front of a hostile crowd. In shows like that, evangelism is the most important thing. We opened up for a band that was very Metallica-influenced and very heavy. We were able to hold our own in front of that crowd."

These guys are blessed to be annointed to do that. It's not easy. They need our prayer everytime they play."

**Describe what it takes for a group of Christian musicians to grow in the Lord.

"I'd say it is very important to give God quality time in prayer as a band. We try and spend a lot of time together as a band praying, reading and studying the Word together as a band and with the crew. It really builds a good fellowship amongst us."

"It keeps us humble. Humble yourself and God will exalt you. (1 Peter 5:6) God has only exalted us when we've humbled ourselves. Anytime we've gotten any kind of pride over what's been going on with our band, there's been no progress."

**What's on your heart right now?

"We just want God to be glorified in our band totally and make sure we're not striving in our flesh. We'd love to put an album out soon, but we try not to get anxious about that. There's been a lot of delays and false starts, but we are realizing that it's in God's timing."

"We've been learning a lot of patience. We've been spending more time in prayer and just letting go and letting God be the manager of our band. It sounds so cliché, but it's true. It would be very easy to run ahead. We think that what we're doing is God's will. We've been trying to seek Him more than anything else."

"God's been seasoning us. Paul and I've been together for four years. It seemed like for a while that the business was starting to overshadow the ministry. It's always gotta be ministry first and business second. That's a hard thing to deal with, 'cause we're confronted with so much business with our secular record contract and all these things."

"Seek God first and His righteousness. We've been learning that it'll never prosper any other way."

**Are there any potential dangers in the Christian metal concerts that Christian headbangers need to know about?

"Well, this is kinda controversial. I think we always need to remember that it's always gotta be Jesus who's glorified and not the band."



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Bride

Dale Thompson's band, Bride, has finally hit the music scene with an album! This breakthrough finally lets a fine artist show his works to a bigger audience. The following interview finds Dale at this exciting point in his musical ministry and career.

****Tell me about the new album.**

"The new album has kind of a medieval theme. It's about good and evil. It portrays how good God is and how bad the devil is. The title song, **Show No Mercy**, is a song to tell Christians to keep on fighting and not to give up. The second to last lyrics, which are my favorite, are: 'I can't be bought and won't sell out. The battle cry is good and loud.' The song is, like, show no mercy to the devil. Be unmerciful in your attempts to avoid temptation. When you're fighting the devil, you're fighting spiritual warfare, so you need to fight it like a Barbarian. That's basically the whole theme of the album.

"The exception to that is **No Matter the Price**, which deals with drug abuse. **Evil That Men Do** is a song to tell Christians to kind of leave Christian metal alone. **Forever in Darkness** is about the end of time and Revelation 17. There's a lot of different songs that talk about Jesus and the cross, but it doesn't say 'Jesus and the cross.' We use synonyms in its place. Every song on the album is written under the inspiration of God. Each sentence of each song is based on scripture. I study and study on the Word about 'em. It's the best heavy metal we've done. We've received lots of praise for it. It might open up a lot of secular avenues."

****That's great. I really like the theme about fighting temptation and fighting the flesh with a Barbaric attitude. It fits right along well with heavy metal music.**

"**I Will Be With You** is about a guy who's gotten away from God. He hopes to get back to Him and God keeps visiting him in his dreams. That's the only time he can ever feel secure, is in his dreams. The whole theme is he'll be secure when he comes back to God.

"We like to write songs to give people something to study. It's kind of like the parables Jesus told. The disciples didn't always understand them, but Jesus always explained them. I think, in concert we don't have any problem in getting our message across. We've played with several secular bands and every band that we've played with can tell what we're about. We do not tell them that we're a Christian band, but after we've played they can tell that we are. They pick out statements in our songs and come up after and say, 'You guys are spiritually

motivated.'

"Heavy metal is an entirely different language. you have to learn the phrases and accents to understand it.

"We're not playing a pop or party metal. We're playing a pure, hard heavy metal and that's what we're going to continue to do."

Messiah Prophet, Bloodgood, Saint and Barren Cross have all showed interest in playing with Bride.

****I'd like to throw some attitudes out to you and have you respond. Here's the first: "I'm saved now. I mess up and blow it. I sin sometimes, but I don't need to worry, 'cause I'm saved. I'm going to heaven now no matter what."**

"I would say that whoever it was is fairly sincere. We all sin and come short of the glory of God. I repent daily and there's not one day that goes by that I don't sin. I don't claim to be holier than thou. I mean, I blow it like everybody else."

****The next one is: "Holiness? That's old-fashioned and legalistic!"**

"You should be holy even as Jesus is holy. Even though it seems like it's almost impossible to be holy these days, because all the different things put before you, but you can be holy in your heart. Maybe not always an outward appearance of holiness, but God looks at the heart and not the outward appearance."

****"I love Stryper. I love Stryper. I love Stryper."**

"I'm bored with Stryper. I'm not bored with the music. I think they're all great musicians. I hate to see a band get over-publicized. It's to the point where I would rather be around like Led-Zeppelin and be a legend for 20 or 30 years, than to be somebody like Ratt, who has a short-lived career. I'm afraid Stryper is headed for that if they don't stop photographers from taking pictures and doing too many interviews."

****"I want to play in a Christian rock band and tour the world for Jesus."**

"Well, evidently, if whoever said that cannot play music, they're wasting their time. Rock music is a difficult thing to play, especially if you play progressively. I would encourage anybody to play for God. To play for Jesus rather than play for the devil.

"We all have different positions. It's best not to idolize musicians and put them up on a pedestal. It's best to be yourself, not to try to be like your idols."

Dale tells us that the next album will be twice as heavy as this one. "It will eat this album. We've already got songs lined up for that."

****How do you come up with songs?**

"A lot of times I'll get music in my head and I'll hum it to Troy and he'll come up with it on guitar."

****How can we pray for ya?**

"We'll probably be doing more secular gigs than Christian gigs, because of the people that are promoting. Just pray that, when we play, I'll have the exact words to say between songs and that people will understand our songs when they hear 'em. We want to try and be articulate enough to where the audience can comprehend what's going on.

"We enjoy getting off the stage and talking to people personally. That's when they open up and let you know what's on their mind. Of course, you can throw a message out to 'em and hope that the seed is sown, but until you get down off the stage and water the seed...who knows if the people are ever gonna come into contact with a Christian again?

"Billy Graham's my favorite preacher. He just preaches a straight message of salvation. I think a lot of bands could learn a lot from that and also a lot of preachers. It seems like throughout his entire ministry, he's never been involved in controversy and never had to repent in a major way."

The album contains a steady diet of metal, which is enough to satisfy a healthy headbanger. The screams are loud, the drums and bass rock, plus the guitar work is very good. This is competent metal. So far, Pure Metal hasn't made any mistakes.

This album fills a needed space in Christian music. The only secular counterpart I can compare this album to is Black Sabbath with Ronnie Dio. Musically, that's a compliment.

Dale Thompson has benefitted from the years of seasoning he experienced releasing tape after tape with Matrix.

Follow Your Heart has a cool acoustic-style bridge in it.

The production overall is good. The songwriting has some good messages, which should bear some good fruit. I have a problem with the lyrics to **Follow your Heart**, so I talked to Dale about it.

"Follow your heart and not your head," seems to convey an anti-intellectual attitude, which disturbs me. Jesus never told us to commit intellectual suicide and not use our brains. Dale is not trying to convey this message, though.

"Follow your heart," says Dale, "which means follow Jesus instead of your head. Because the devil likes to play tricks on your mind. He cannot actually get inside your conscious. Jesus is your conscious. Here in Kentucky, I was always taught that your heart and your conscious are the same thing. That's basically what that means."

Thunder In The City stands out on this album for it's Jefferson Starship-type piano intro and then it's Door's style verses before Dale brings things home with a scream. Dale shows his creativity on this song, which can sometimes be a rare commodity in heavy metal. This song also has some of the hottest guitar leads on the album.

Overall, each song doesn't depart too far from the others, except for the afore-mentioned, and none of them are fillers. **Evil That Men Do** is the first exceptional song on the album and **The First Will Be Last** is the last exceptional song on the album (The pun was totally intended). Each song on this album is good, which means this album will be worn out by many a Bride fan. Bob Hopkins, Midwestern correspondant extraordinaire, gave this album an 82 out of 100 rating.

Get it or regret it...

Bride merchandise: **Monkey See...Monkey Do** and **PG-13** tapes are \$4; 8 x10's are \$3.50; t-shirts are \$10; garters (just like a bride would wear) are \$3.50; LP's are \$8.50. Add 50 cents for postage.

Metal Tracks continued...

MISL. MISL is a new Christian metal band from Austin TX. Currently, they are working on a demo. For more info or any questions, please write MISL c/o Bob Beltran, 1339 Neans Dr. Austin TX 78758. MISL is playing a metal show here on May 23rd with Paradox and Roxalt. You will like their demo when it comes out. I've heard one of their preliminary efforts and was impressed!

Chariot, a really hot band from Florida, is finally releasing a custom cassette for public consumption. They've been sending me demos for a year, but have asked me not to review 'em in Heaven's Metal or publicize them. They've been working on getting the best sound they can before they release something. Well, the wait will be over sometime late this summer. It will feature the great song **Truth**, which is a Y&T-style rocker.

Rizer is back together?!? They have new members and are working on a new tape. If you'd like to get ahold of 'em, write Rizer @ 2612 W. Melvin St. A 30, Phoenix AZ 85009.

Prayer Partners. God put it upon my heart to match up every subscriber with two prayer partners. What I've done is match every person on the subscription list with the name above theirs and the name below. This way every prayer partner is praying for two people, who are also praying for him or her.

If you don't have two prayer partners or want your prayer partners' addresses, write in and I'll send that info to ya.

Dual Edge

Dual Edge is a four-piece band consisting of: Dave Harland on lead vocals; Rick Wald on guitars and backing vocals; John Avery on bass and backing vocals; and Terry Steinmeyer on drums and backing vocals. They're from Minneapolis, Minnesota, which has a huge rock scene, but the Christian rock hasn't really happened there yet.

Dual Edge got their name from Revelation 2:12 and Hebrews 4:12. "We were really turned-on by Hebrews 4:12," says Terry. "The part about piercing through the flesh and hitting the heart. That's ideal for us, because a rock band is such a flesh-looking thing, you know? It's just like we're going right through the flesh into the heart."

"We played the club circuit about three or four times per week from October to February and played originals and a couple Stryper covers."

"We didn't see any significant ministry happen, so we've shied away from that. We get a lot of response from people after we were playing, but it was just dead while we were playing. No one cared that we were a Christian band. No one cared that we were a band, basically. Up here it's not like the LA scene. These bands play up here to entertain the drinking crowd more than in LA, where I've heard it's more concert oriented. People buy tickets and go there to see the band. Around here, it's more like they go out to drink and be with friends. I mean, even the biggest acts in town are lucky if they get anyone standing by the stage. We got a pretty dead response, but our tape got a huge response."

"It's been kinda discouraging for us. We went and tried to fool ourselves and play Stryper-kind of gigs, you know? 'We'll go into the bars and minister.' We weren't even close to being ready for that. It really takes an expert to walk into a bar and change drunk people into God-fearing people."

"Now we're just shopping the promo and a local ministry at a local church. We want to have new bands every week with a free-will offering. We'd be playin' there every week. We feel called to that right now."

Terry described their sound as a cross from Ratt and Bon Jovi to Van Halen. "It's heavy metal, but it's more melodic and has vocal harmonies during most of the song."

"We're trying not to be standard for rock bands. We're really choreographed and color coordinated. The drums, guitars and clothes are all black and white. The mike stands are paint-splashed black and white."

"We communicate the basic, 'accept Jesus,' theory. We don't get deep into Bible terminology and stuff or intense story-telling."

****When you're playing, are you worshiping God at different times?**

"We're probably praying not to screw up. We're really conscious of our choreographed show. It's really intense. We're worshiping before the show, so I think that definitely carries on to when we're on stage. We have a lot of other things on our mind. About 50% of what goes on in my mind is performing and the rest is thinking about people."

God really has blessed honest hearts like theirs. "The whole time the band's been together, we've been totally lazy about it and things have been handed to us on a silver platter."

"We hear of a lot of bands that are trying to get a demo tape together. We just met an old Christian rock gospelist kind of guy, who had some money and he put the whole project together. We also basically got a whole p.a. funded with no problem."

****What are the two top things it takes to keep a ministry on fire?**

"Probably: be patient and really help other band members out. It's really easy to slip a little bit. That can bring a whole band down. You have to be really critical towards other band members when it comes to slipping. I guess, critical and supportive."

"We went on a major slide for a long time. The thing for us that really brought it back together was being patient and slowing things down. We were, like, aiming for the world with a BB gun. We had to slow everything down and put everything into perspective."

"Another thing that really helped was a local Bible study, called RAP."

"You have to, at all times, make sure that music doesn't interfere with your relationship with Christ. Your view has gotta be on God at all times. Your music is like a career. It's life-ly, it's not heavenly, you know?"

****What do you think the Lord has been teaching you lately?**

"Dave and I were out of a church for a couple months, looking around for a church. Now that we're back in a church, we're feeling 100% better. I think that's something God's been teaching me lately: There's always something wrong with a church and it's sometimes hard to deal with, yet it's almost essential that you have somewhere to go and worship every Sunday. Hanging around Christians helped a lot."

****How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for ya?**

"The first thing is pray for us and our walk. It's real tough being such a young band. Ricky's still in high school."

"The second is that we start accomplishing national attention."



ACTS 9:15,16

When you have something and you want to pour it out, you use a vessell. When you need to deliver something, you use a vessell. God has His overflowing measure of grace and His presence that He wants to pour out and deliver. He is using this Vessell to do that. Once used for dishonor, this band is now used for honor of the King of all kings.

Before the band was Vessell, they all were Vandal. The names serve as a testimony themselves don't they? Vandal played and lived the rock and roll lifestyle and the devil, in turn, vandalized their lives and their soul. Just in time, though, the hero (Jesus Christ) stepped into the picture. He pulled them out of the mirey clay and reformed them into what they were meant to be--vessells of His love.

1986 saw Marcus Payne, Scott Gross, Jimi Lee Nichols and Jim Onks dedicate their talents to the Lord. Now Vessell is rocking to appreciative audiences all over the West. Vessell opened for Stryper in Arizona and impressed the boys in yellow and black so much that they seriously considered having them open for all their US dates.

"Vessell is the hottest band that has opened for us in the states," say Stryper.

Vessell describes their music as high energy rock and roll. They use straight-forward lyrics that are backed by "raw guitar, high tech keys coupled with heavy bass and drums, making for an energetic, heart shocking show."

Vandal played lots of impressive gigs, including the "Legends of Rock and Roll Club," on the University of Tennessee campus, where groups such as The Romantics, Greg Allman and The Outlaws have played. They were also the first Christian band to play in the nationally-known club, "Rockers." They played at the "WYGO/MTV Beach Party" at Corbin Civic Center in Corbin Kentucky.

They've performed with such acts as Rick Cua, Darrell Mansfield, Phil Keaggy, Brian Duncan, Leon Patillo and Paul D'Lanno's (ex-Iron Maiden vocalist) group, Hurricane.

Who are these guys and why haven't I heard of 'em yet? Vessell is solving that problem as you read. They are working on a six-song EP that they hope to distribute in April or May. If you'd like to be the first person in your state to wear a Vessell t-shirt, you can order one of those by writing manager Ron Merideth at: 2454 West Campbell #210, Phoenix AZ 85015. If you'd like to book this band before the promoter down

the street does, you can call Ron @ (602) 995-9555.

Jimi Lee Nichols, who plays keys and sax, is the lead vocalist. He is 23 and holds a Bachelor's degree in Counseling Psychology. He has worked as a social worker, specializing in the field of child abuse. He's working as a Psychiatric counselor at an adolescent treatment hospital in Phoenix.

Jimi plays Christian music because he enjoys playing music and loves the Lord. He wants to reach the bitter and hardened hearts of many youth, who have experienced pain and disillusionment with their families, education and spiritual lives.

One question that each band member answers in their press material is: "How would you define success?"

Jimi answers, "Success is being at peace with God, myself and my fellow brothers and sisters."

He feels that he was called by God to minister to the world through his songwriting, vocals and ability to play the keys and sax. He feels that the youth today need peace; not sedation, repression and plastic religion--full of rituals and man-made doctrines. Jimi feels the calling to tell these young people about a peace full of power, a peace without pain, confusion or hate. A peace called Jesus Christ.

Marcus Payne, the guitarist and co-songwriter, has been playing his instrument for eight years. He believes he was called by God to minister to the world through his music. Marcus also feels that God puts those, who desire His will in their lives, in positions that allow that person to use the gifts given to him to best glorify and uplift God and His throne.

Jim Onks, the bassist for the group, came back to the Lord while lying in a hospital bed. He was involved in a serious auto accident, which seemed to culminate the downfall of his life. He began to let the Lord speak to his heart for the first time since the age of 10. At this point, Jim just knew he had to give his life back to the Lord.

God has since planted a desire in Jim's heart to reach out to young teens to help encourage them through the tough decision-making years. Jim believes that through his talent as a bass guitarist and the talents of Vessell that God will use them to minister to the world through music. He stands on Phillipians 2:13: "For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for His good pleasure."

Jim describes success as, "Enjoying what you do in life, loving those around you and, most of all, giving all of the credit to Jesus Christ."

Scott Gross has been playing the drums for seven years. After playing several years in bars and clubs, he realized that his talent came from

Heaven's Metal Update.

Well, Heaven's Metal is almost two years old. I am humbled that God would use it. Praise Him!

He continues to use my weaknesses for His glory. For example, I felt bad about the last issue. I forgot to edit an entire article after it was entered on the computer (I offer you a public apology, Elisabeth Bieber, for not editing your article.). I was also worried about the response from Idle Cure being on the cover. I also wondered, "Is it egotistical having an article on myself?" I felt disappointed, yet God was glorified nevertheless.

Anyway, on to bigger things. I want to share my prayer needs. My goal is to make Heaven's Metal more presentable to the public. (By this I mean quality paper, photos and distribution, not watered-down messages. No way!!) In order for this to happen, I need money. Not your money, but advertiser's money. I desire Heaven's Metal to be supported just like other rock magazines = advertising dollars. I think this will happen eventually. You can help by asking potential advertisers what they think. Ad rates are \$45 for a full page ad, \$30 for a half page and \$23 for a 1/3 page. Appoint yourself as an advertising salesperson for Heaven's Metal.

Heaven's Metal started as a self-supporting venture. Subscription rates were even with operating costs. This is not the case anymore. Increased phone bills from interviews, sample copies sent to bands and record companies have increased operating expenses beyond income. It's not way out of line, but it does cause a struggle.

Please don't be mistaken. I am serious when I say I am not asking for your money. You already are supporting Heaven's Metal by subscribing. Don't worry, either. If no advertising dollars come in, Heaven's Metal will continue right along as is. I believe that God doesn't always want bigger and better. I won't strive for something that won't happen. I will do my best with what I have available. Besides, the bigger goal is to advance the Christian metal movement as a whole, which in turn advances the kingdom of God.

If and when Heaven's Metal grows to a full color glossy cover magazine, I don't want to be a flash-in-the-pan fly by night rag. I want to do it right. This will take prayer, time and wisdom. So, you can pray that the financial doors would open for Heaven's Metal to increase. (For trivia buffs, distribution is currently at 700 copies per issue.)

Another big prayer need is my time. I feel drained by my two jobs. I work full time at a bank and then come home to work on Heaven's Metal. many times I'm so tired. Maybe it's like this so I won't rely on myself. If I had the time, I might put confidence in me, rather than

the dependency being put on God. I praise God, because He uses Heaven's Metal and He annoints my writing. I know I'm not this great writer, but God uses this weakness. The neatest example of this is the gospel piece on the back of every issue (except Vol. II #3): I don't know what I'm gonna write each time and then God supplies it. I love that!

Anyway, you can pray that I would be able to be productive in my work on Heaven's Metal. I really appreciate that. Prayer is something I all too often take for granted.

Well, there is some relatively bad news. I think it's necessary to raise the subscription price to \$6. For those of you who subscribe, you can now renew your sub for \$5 for a limited time.

If you don't like this idea, please complain! I really want to know how you feel about it. I feel privileged to be able to minister to you and I don't want to abuse you at all.

Thanks for the chance to share a bit. Oh yeah, for those of you who may think things are going to get mellow around here (since Idle Cure was on the last cover)...forget it! Heavier stuff's on the way!

Vessell cont'd...

the Lord Jesus Christ. Scott then rededicated his life to Jesus and now uses his thunderous drums to rock for the King!

He has a burden for today's youth. He wants to tell them through his music what Jesus has done for him, and let them know that Jesus loves and cares for them. Scott adds, "Jesus has done a lot for me. I just want to do what I can for Him and that includes playing my drums."

Scott defines success as, "Being right with God." He points out that the Bible says, in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

It seems like it would be just as exciting to hear these guys preach as it would to hear them rock! With the way things are going, we'll all probably get a chance to hear both soon.

Metal Tracks cont'd...

Neon Cross. Nudge, nudge say no more. With a name like Neon Cross, I needn't say a thing. You know they rock like mad. The name "Neon Cross," just wouldn't fit for a top-forty band.

These guys rock with a wreckless abandon. They have the perfect high-pitched screaming vocals for a frenzied metal band. The voice stands tall as an instrument all its own. It's not annoying, like some, this screamer's got a throat. For their 5-song EP, send \$5.60 to: Los Angeles Records/N.C., 713 Pacific Coast Hwy, Redondo Beach CA 90277.

Trytan has been signed by the secular label Park Avenue Records out of New York.

Tools of our Times

By D.K. Nunes

Like young warriors off to battle
Their armour now they don,
And finely tune their instruments
Then turn the power on.

The crowd begins to gather
and spirits start to soar,
The concert is finally ready
Then they hit 'em with a roar!

Problems with equipment
Satan puts them to the test,
The adrenalin is flowing
They give their very best.

Now the audience is responding
What a feeling of control,
As they sing and dance and sweat
Pouring out their very soul.

But what of this Man Jesus
The One of Whom they sing,
He is standing by so patiently
As He is waiting in the wing.

In all of this confusion
I wonder how that they
Can focus the attention
On the One Who is The Way.

Can they turn down the volume
Could the tempo be less wild
And turn young eyes to Jesus
Who said, "Come as a child."

When the equipment is away
And activity is a cease,
Can they focus their attention
On the gentle "Prince of Peace?"

Jesus lived a simple lifestyle
Yet even this brought him scorn
He wore a seamless robe
And a cruel crown of thorn.

Oh they mocked and rebuked Him
No one seemed to understand
They beat our precious Savior
And pierced His feet and hand.

So what am I saying
As I struggle with this rhyme
You live a different lifestyle
You have your place in time.

There is much I don't understand
Life remains a mystery
But God uses willing vessels
Throughout time and history.

For He wishes no one to perish
As He sets the prisoner free
He uses "Tools of the Times"
When He says "Come follow Me."

So don your unique costumes
Go sing and shout and praise
Serve Him in your youth
And serve Him all your days.

[Mrs. Nunes is the mother of "Uncle Sammy," who plays bass for The Paul Q-Pek Band.]

Jacob's Well cont'd...

using the volume knob to control the pitch. This riff goes into some good, plain melodic notes.

Someone should give these guys a record contract. Judging by the riffs on the album, I'm sure these guys just smoke in concert!

Some of you may not be impressed with your first listening. They don't have polished production or an aggressiveness that would classify them as metal. It's not "no-holds barred metal," it's real good hard rock. When you give this tape a few more listens, you can begin to enjoy the melodic feeling of the music and the fluid leads woven into each song.

To order this hot tape, send an International Money Order or bank draft in Australian dollars to: Glen Cannon, 6 Mofflin Rd, Elizabeth Grove, SA 5112, Australia. Cost for the cassette and forwarding by air mail is: A\$16.05 for New Zealand; A\$16.85 for USA; and A\$17.30 for the UK and England. (A\$16.85 is about \$12.36 for us. Please do not send US dollars. Go to a bank and make the conversion. Make it an adventure, not a hassle.)

Metal Tracks cont'd...

Vince, a promoter for After Dark Productions, put on a Christian metal show on Friday the 13th in March. It had Holy Soldier, Gardian, Deliverance and Inner Lite. "I decided to book the show on Friday the 13th, because I knew other promoters would put on a satanic bill, like on Halloween or something. Sure enough, two other promoters did." \$2 from each ticket at the door was donated to Arthur Blessit's ministry. Arthur was scheduled to show up, but couldn't.

"It was great," says Vince. "The guys in the band were up and down the strip witnessing to people after the show."

Gardian cont'd...

"I think a lot of times us Christian headbangers get carried away in putting the music and the fashion first and it's kind of a social event. There's nothing wrong with having good, clean fun. That's what Gardian wants to provide: good rock and metal that glorifies God. A lot of times you've got to watch out that it doesn't overshadow what we're trying to share: Jesus Christ with those who are lost in the darkness of Godless metal.

"The only danger I could see is that the music would start to come first and not Jesus. It should always be Jesus first. Everything should be in order. The central theme that sets Stryper and Barren Cross and Gardian and all these bands apart from Motley Crue and others is Jesus Christ."

****How can a believer prepare for a Christian metal concert?**

"To pray. If you're going with friends, pray in the car before the concert. Thank God for the evening and ask Him, 'Hey. We'd like to have a good time and rock, but help us to remember that there might be others at this concert tonight who don't know You. May we always be conscious of the unsaved.'

"Whenever Christians get together, so often we don't pray. It doesn't always have to be a long prayer, but just acknowledge God and ask that He be glorified that evening. There's nothing wrong with having a great time at all. You can have a great, fun, headbanging evening, but I'd say the best thing is to pray.

"As a band, we never go on stage without praying. Our crowd is just as important as our band too. They're just like our crew--we couldn't do anything without our crew. It's a team effort at a Gardian concert. Our band, our crew and our Christian following--that's our team.

"We're up on stage sharing the gospel, but we have kids in the bathroom talking to other kids who aren't Christians. God is fully using them to preach His Word. It's just not a band at any Christian concert. **Any Christian out there--God will use you as much as He will use the band.**"

****How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for you guys?**

"Pray that God's will be done in our band. If it's God's will for us to have a record soon, that'd be excellent, but we've found that it's always best to pray for God's will.

"Pray that we would have the strength to seek Him even more daily. Pray for all the bands. Pray for Stryper. Pray for all these bands, 'cause God's raising up a mighty movement.

"Magazines like Heaven's Metal, White Throne, Vortextx, Powerline, all this stuff. We didn't know about any of this and we found out about it and it blew us away. It's fully edified us,

'cause we live in jaded Southern California where everyone's so blasé about it and there's so many bands and stuff.

"The Word says we should pray for one another that we may be healed. Pray that this whole movement would continue. Not just for Gardian, but that all these bands would get signed and there would be a ton of Christian metal out there. Just a bunch of albums, 'cause, compared to secular metal, there's still only a handful of records out and a handful of bands. There's so many good bands. I know God is raising up something awesome.

"I'd ask for God's will for our band if I asked for any prayer for us, but I'd ask more for prayer for this entire Christian metal movement that's goin' on. It's really growin'!"

Send off for a tape of Gardian. They are totally hot. They're happenin'. Write Gardian at: PO Box 452, Tustin CA 92681.

Dual Edge cont'd...

"Thirdly, that local Christian rock would begin to be established, not only in the Twin Cities, but everywhere.

"I thought about why people think Christian music isn't as good as secular music. I came to the conclusion that: If we had the competition and experience that bar bands go through, Christian music would probably be a lot more competitive. So, pray that the local rock scene would start booming as much as the national."

Their tape, entitled **Knock 'Em Dead**, was recorded on a 16-track studio and was produced by Brian Bart, who plays in the hottest bar band around Minneapolis.

The opening number seems to promise an album full of pop-metal, but don't be fooled. These guys eventually kick it out, but not until the fourth song: **Be With You**. It's kind of like a Def-Leppard song.

New Life, the fifth song, is the second real rocker on side one. It's got a good and raunchy rhythm, but the anticipated lead break of the song is mixed too low.

The title track kicks off side B and is loud, hot and aggressive.

Take It To The Bank has some good vocal and guitar harmonies. There's some really good hammer-on and vibrato work here. These guys really go after it. They don't metal you to death, but they rock real tight. The lyrics are a bit repetitious and cliché, but not to the point of being annoying.

The Light is a good commercial number, while the rest of the songs are similar to Ratt and Bon Jovi, but with much cleaner and "nice boy"-sounding vocals.

Overall, this tape is worth buying--if not for the packaging alone. I love to watch the gold-colored reels go round and round inside the clear-plastic cartridge. Just send \$6.50 to Dual Edge, 8140 Hampshire Ave, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445.



Bloodgood rolled into Austin, Texas and Heaven's Metal had the privilege of being the promoter for it. Bloodgood took all the financial risk (loss) and asked me to set it up for them. It was a great joy...until I spent three hours trying to balance out the ticket money. (God bless you Joyce!)

The band played at one of Austin's premier dives: The Ritz, which is the hotspot for metal shows here. The guys basically rested or kicked back most of the afternoon, while their roadies and volunteers loaded the equipment in. Mark Welling took some extra tickets and went around town giving 'em away.

The guys were light-hearted during the sound check. They burst out laughing when they all sang off-key through the Accept The Lamb chorus.

"We don't take the sound check seriously," says David Zaffiro. "We can't. We would be so involved and it's too easy to get upset."

Backstage the band prayed with One Bad Pig before they were to go on. "Bless their concessions tonight Lord," prayed Mike, "that they might make some bucks. Father, we're not here for that tonight Lord, yet we need those things. Let their records touch hearts tonight that haven't been touched before."

"Bless Your Word tonight Lord. Not just with our set, but when the kids go home and play the tape. Just be glorified in everything."

"Lord, we claim the victory," prayed Mark Welling. "Bring Your salvation tonight. Glorify Yourself and bring all men to Yourself. You say no one can come to the Son unless the Father draws them. We ask that You would bring people to the foot of the cross. I pray that sin would be revealed tonight. That brokenness would be out there in the audience tonight. Anoint us Lord with Your Holy Spirit. I just confess that I am tired. Give us zeal. Make us fervent for You, Lord."

"I pray that you would just draw people off the streets tonight Father," says Mike, "and they would be amazed to find You tonight, Lord. We don't have a whole lot to boast in, but we can boast loudly of You."

"Lord, I just pray that You would forgive us all our sins," asks Mark, "and You would clean us and sanctify us. That Satan would have no place, no foothold, that we would have victory."

"Satan, we bind you with the authority of Jesus Christ. We bind you and cast you out in the name of Jesus. We rebuke you."

"Every demon in hell," prayed David, "get on the run."

"Now we expect to move demons out of the way, Lord. We already have in Your name. You told us not to rejoice in those things, but to rejoice we're in the Lamb's Book of Life. Praise You."

Les sang out in praise: "Glory, glory, glory unto the Lamb. Praise You...Hallelujah Lord God."

It was a powerful time of prayer. While the Pig was playing, Bloodgood was backstage. Mark was flipping through a local rock newspaper trying to relax. Les was making up play lists for each member to use. Mike spent time doing different things, like jamming out and looking at the band from side stage. David sat around and posed for a couple of photographs and joked around.

Overall, the band was relaxing and mentally preparing for two hours of intense metal. They deliver some of the hottest metal in the world!

I interviewed David, the awesome first runner-up to the Heaven's Metal Guitar Hero Award, the next day.

****Tell me about you, the Lord and the guitar.**

"I started playing acoustical guitar when I was in sixth grade. I lived in Fairbanks, Alaska and had a friend named Maverick, who played electric guitar. I had talent, but he always had an edge on me, even though we started playing about the same time."

"Then I got saved. The Lord took away my strife and ambition, and blessed me with real talent and a broader appreciation of music. But, I had to get my priorities in order and put Him first, then the blessing flowed. He led me to be a counsel to my old friends. Through my love of the Lord, I was able to show them my new talent and my new life through Him. The change let them see that what I had was real."

****So God did a work in you through raising you before your peers and blessing you with new talent?**

"Yes, but not only talent wise, but physically. I have had tendon problems in both hands for the past few years. It got so bad during the **Detonation** recording session, I didn't think I

could go on. The guys and I prayed about it, and it immediately vanished...till recently. I understand why the Lord lets it come and go. I have to constantly lean on Him. I can't trust in my own strength. Also, I know I must put Him before the music or the band's ministry. If I am not willing to be totally subject to His will, He will take me out and have me do something else." (Let's lift up David's arms in prayer.)

****Tell us how you cope with the spiritual warfare of your ministry.**

"This tour has been a trial by fire so far. The Lord's allowed us to be tested by the flesh, Satan and the world. We are being sifted and purified every day. This has been a feast and famine tour. I'd say that we have been totally reliant on the Lord one time, the next time we have catered food and everything we want. Our flesh becomes an obstacle. But, we accept this as necessary for our own faith to be strengthened and our walk with Jesus to be closer.

"When you've been proven by a trial, when you're learning how to battle against Satan and you know how to win in the Lord--that's a precious thing. When you learn how to deal with your flesh on the road--that's very precious also. Of course, the world: the only thing I can say about that is picketers and people that don't believe in what we're doing. Those are some of the trials."

****So, aside from trials, how does the band fellowship?**

"Thank the Lord. We get along great. We try not to take ourselves too seriously and to put Jesus before our self-pride.

"When we're in the studio, Les is the technical leader. We stay loose and have fun on the road. We have various dialogues we use over the C.B. between the motorhome and the truck. It ranges from Star Wars, to Popeye, to crazy names for food and drinks. We replace words in songs and group names with the word 'foot.' For example: Accept The Foot; Killing The Feet; Black Foot; or Bloodfoot. The Beatles are The Footles.

"When we are not on the road or in the studio, we try to play golf, which is relaxing. But we don't take that seriously either."

I asked Mike in the last interview I did with him what he did in his spare time. He answered:

"What spare time? I haven't had any of that in a long time. Les and I manage the band. Let's see, I came down here (in the basement) at 10:30 this morning and I'll probably stay here till 2 in the morning, so it takes up quite a bit of time."

****Describe a typical day of Michael Bloodgood.**

"Well, I drudge out of bed, take a shower and I sit around with my family and we read about seven or eight Psalms, a Proverb and something out of the New Testament. Then we have a little prayer bulletin board. My wife, her six-year old

son each have something specific to pray for each day. Then I have my boy memorize a scripture each week. We're on Romans 3:23 now. That's the first thing I do.

"Then I struggle to the coffee maker and put on a pot of coffee and come down to the basement here, which is my office. I start going through whatever I have to do. Right now we're trying to get caught up on the fan mail.

"I have people help. Les is over now. He's got the Atlas out and we put a pin in the map for all the letters we get. This helps us see where we're getting a response from. Of course, it helps us determine where we should tour and where we shouldn't tour. We have radio airplay pins also. You can begin to see where it's happening and where it's not happening.

"We have our mail order stuff. I process that here. I'm constantly putting press kits together and sending that out. Fan mail goes through a lot of processes. First, it gets alphabetized, then mapped. Then I take every piece of fan mail we have and xerox it and send it to one of 18 Benson reps out in the US--whichever territory it comes from.

"That way he sees a direct fruit from his ministry, his job. He can take it to a Bible bookstore or secular outlet and show 'em the response Bloodgood gets from the album sales. It's kind of a real frontline, no pun intended, way of communicating to the sales rep. Plus, I like to stay in communication with those guys, you know. I've talked to one Benson rep who'd never even talked to an artist before in the whole Benson company. To me that's kind of strange.

"The letters that are real special, I'll put a mark on and send a copy to my pastor, maybe Benson and Frontline, so they can see some of the ministry that's happening from their efforts and having Bloodgood on the label.

"Then, after that's done, we reply to every piece of fan mail we get, whether it's a mail-order form or a personal letter back. This is why it takes us so long to answer sometimes, but we do answer 'em. When it's been answered, we type it into the computer into our mailing list and file the letter into a box and file it by state.

"That's why I'm so busy. This is what I do and that doesn't include booking the band and writing songs. I've never worked as hard as I do now without making money, but I've never done anything as exciting as this."

****Why the name Bloodgood?**

"I came up with the name," says David. "I was just dreaming one night and this name just kinda got bigger and...Naw! I'm just kidding, Michael! It's Mike's last name. He had always thought his surname would be great for a rock band and we needed one, so he humbly submitted it to us.

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Oops!!! The title of Beth Whitaker's book (See page 3) is correctly entitled: The Calling Of A Rock Star: A Mother's View. I also offer apologies for another glaring error in the last issue (Vol. II #4): X-Terra was not pictured from left to right, as written. There was no photo!

You will soon be receiving a complimentary issue of New Sound Magazine. It's a special issue, featuring Christian metal. They have been gracious enough to get a copy to each one of you. Enjoy it! It's a real cool magazine. Praise God for it!

News flash! Jesus is coming soon in great splendor and glory!

Crossforce - (demo) 14377 Bancroft #23, San Leandro CA 94578

By Jay Mindeman

****1/2

When Tony Crider left Golgotha (who are now Valor), I was both shocked and dismayed. Could he form a worthwhile band and ministry? Listen to his new band, Crossforce, and the answer will ring heartily in your ears. "Yes," on all counts.

Crossforce's demo has six songs on it, and not only is the musicianship superb, the production quality is far above average. In fact, Crossforce is the best sounding new group I've heard in 1987 so far (albeit it is only four months in).

All songs crunch and grind with a metal bite, but have that special "class" that set bands like Dokken and Ratt apart from other heavy hitters.

Tomorrow Will Come is a hit any way you look at it. It opens hard, lightens up, then builds up to more metal mania. **Our Father**, the next tune, opens with some backward lyrics (C'mon Tony, what are they?) and immediately turns into a kicker that will supercharge your battery.

Smoke Filled Room is a hard rock ballad that is pretty without mellowing out. **Ready and Waiting** is another heavy duty cut worthy of the best in Bay Area heavy metal. **Rock 'Til the Final Day** closes the tape with more metal fury.

When somone told me that Phil Castillo was a guitar wizard, I didn't believe it. Believe it. He's furiously fast when he wants, and beautifully slow when you least expect it. His playing, Crider's laid-back and strong vocals, plus the rest of Crossforce add up for a sound that is a headbanger's delight.

When Tony Crider went looking for a band, he found a classy bunch of guys. Crossforce has a strong sense of convictions and ministry (did I mention solid lyrics?) and a sound that will get the Word across. Pick this one up, you won't be dissappointed.

Bloodgood cont'd...

Although we were kind of split on it at first, we prayed about it and agreed upon it."

**Is Bloodgood Micheal's real name?

"Yeah. It's his real name, Bloodgood. It's kinda funny. We'll be talking to people like some promoter or some secretary who works for a record company or a magazine, and it'll be, 'What was the name of your band?'

"Bloodgood."

"Oh. That's disgusting!"

"Michael will go, 'Oh...yeah...Well, thank you. That's my last name.'"

"Basically, it is Michael's band. He was called by the Lord to form it and pray over it for a long time. It is our band, but we submit to his leadership. Isn't he great on stage? Always smiling and happy. I love all the guys!"

Next issue will have a Bloodgood article where David and Mike lay down some technical music tricks they do on stage and vinyl. Rest assured, though, David's not gonna reveal how he gets the awesome Bach-syle classical riffs in his "Guitar Burn." I asked him about that technique and he told me, but only after stopping the tape recorder so it wouldn't end up in print. David spoke about his amps and effects and explains the sound in the lead break during **The Messiah**. Michael talks about his booming power chording on bass. Stay tuned...

Aslan is working on a 6-song EP due out before summer.

JESUS IS...

GOD!

Some people say Jesus was a great teacher. Others say He was a great prophet. Still others say He was a good person. Many say He is the Son of God, but they don't really think about or know what they're saying.

Who did Jesus say He was? "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I Am." (John 8:58) Jesus said this to a group of Jews, who knew exactly what He was meaning. They knew the name "I Am" to be the name of God Himself.

When Moses was talking to God at the burning bush, God told him to go talk to the people of Israel. Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask of me, 'What is His name?' Then what should I tell them?"

"God said to Moses, 'I am Who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I Am has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:13-14)

The Jews immediately reacted to Jesus when He said, "I Am." They picked up rocks to stone Him with. They knew it was blasphemous for a man to call Himself God. They didn't believe Jesus.

The next time Jesus said, "I Am," was when He was arrested. Judas, His betrayer, brought a Roman cohort with him for the arrest. A Roman cohort consists of a band of 600 soldiers. They showed up at the Garden of Gethsemane with lanterns and torches and weapons. It's pretty funny to think about: Here were all these dudes, armed to the teeth, and they're out to arrest God.

Jesus asked them, "Who do you seek?"

They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene."

He then said to them, "I am." As soon as He said that, they were knocked flat on their backs. Talk about power! Just introducing Himself totally blew them away! Jesus is God!

Jesus and His Father are the only people in the Bible that accepted worship. Angels, apostles and prophets all refused to be worshiped, but Jesus stood there and let people worship Him. (Matthew 2:11; 14:33; 28:9,17; John 9:38; Acts 10:25-26)

If He was God, then why did He die?

Someone once posed the question: "Let's say you're God and you're about to create the earth and mankind. You can see ahead, though, and know that if you give man free will and the ability to love; that man will fall in sin. You know that the only way to save fallen man is to let an innocent person suffer agony and die for the guilt of the rest. Will you do it?"

The answer was, "Yes, but only if I can come down to earth and die for the guilty myself." That is exactly what God did.

He created you and I to have fellowship with Him and we turned and rebelled against Him. As a result, we face the punishment of our decision: eternal rebellion, or eternal separation from God...hell. Jesus, acting out of mercy, came to earth and became the only solution to our problem: an innocent and pure sacrifice.

"Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:5-8)

Only God could earn our way into heaven, so He did. What are you and I gonna do about it? Are we gonna call Jesus a liar and say He isn't God? Or are we going to face up to Him and treat Him like a God should be treated?

God should be treated with total surrender. If He created you, you owe Him everything. Everything you have and everything you are is His.

How do you give God yourself? You simply speak to Him and say, "Jesus, I'm your's. You created me and You died for me. You rose from the dead and You are God."

Once you have done this, get baptized and tell others about Jesus. Now you've realized that Jesus told the truth about Himself. Now, "through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ, you have received a precious faith." (2 Peter 1:1 paraphrased)

Treat that precious faith with care. Nurture it. Hear God speak to you. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17) You can hear God by reading His Word, praying to Him and listening to what He has to say, and hearing Him talk through people. Hang out with Christians. They're doing the same thing you're doing and can help you do it better.

Jesus loves you...He died to prove it. Jesus is God...He rose from the dead to prove it.

(Scripture quotes taken from the Holy Bible: New International Version c 1978 by the New York International Bible Society, used by permission.)